

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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PA-02 PRS-01 OIC-02 OES-07 AF-10 EA-09 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5869

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UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2781

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN ECLA GT

SUBJECT: ECLA: 17TH SESSION: GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT'S OPENING SPEECH

REF: GUATEMALA 2739

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD, IN TOUGH OPENING ADDRESS TO ECLA CONFERENCE SAID THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE DELIBERATELY TRIED TO RESTRAIN THE GROWTH OF LATIN AMERICA BUT THAT THEY SHOULD LEARN FROM HISTORY THAT THIS IMPERIAL ATTITUDE WILL NOT PREVENT THEIR OWN UNDERMINING. NATIONS, TOO, HAVE "HUMAN RIGHTS" TO TRADE, FREE OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE, AND TO EXIST WITHOUT BEING EXPLOITED. ECLA THEN HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CHANGE THE RELATIONS THAT HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE AMBASSADOR YOUNG AGREED WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD THAT LARGER NATIONS SHOULD NOT EXPLOIT SMALLER NATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. A PARTIAL TEXT OF PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S OPENING REMARKS FOLLOWS BEGIN TEXT NEVER BEFORE IN YEARS PAST HAVE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS FACED AS THEY DO TODAY SUCH A COMPLEX COMBINATION OF ADVERSE FACTORS FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT. AS PRODUCERS OF TRADITIONAL PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND AS IMPORTERS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, THEIR ECONOMIES HAVE DECLINED BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED PRICE OF ENERGY, THE HIGH COST OF SECURING TECHNOLOGY AND THE RESTRICTIONS WHICH THE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES MAINTAIN

IN THEIR MARKETS AGAINST THE PRODUCTS OF OUR REGION.

3. THE UNITED NATIONS IS BASED ON A PLATFORM OF HIGH HUMAN IDEALS, AND IT IS THE GUARDIAN OF THOSE SPIRITUAL VALUES THAT HAVE LED THE GIHEST MOVEMENTS OF MAN THROUGH HISTORY. IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PRESERVE THE PEACE WHEN MILITARY CONFLICTS HAVE OCCURRED. BUT IT HAS STILL NOT CONSTRUCTED A PEACE THAT STEMS FROM AN INTERNATIONAL HZECONOMIC ORDER BASED ON EQUALITY. THE LARGE NATIONS CONTINUE TO HOLD THE PLACE OF BENEFICIARIES OF WHAT THE SMALL COUNTRIES PRODUCE AND OF WHAT THE SMALL CUUNTIES BUY A THE PRICE THE LARGE COUNTRIES SET.

4. WE ARE THEREFORE TRIBUTARIES TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE MAJOR COUNTRIES IN AN ECONOMIC ORDER OF SUBORIDNATE AND DEPENDENT STRATA. BUT WHEN SOME OF OUR PRODUCTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROSPER IN THE WORL MARKET, THEN THEY ESTABLISH QUOTAS, THEY ERECT DUTIES, AND THEY PUT INTO EFFECT TRADING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EVEN POLITICAL TECHNIQUES TO DISCOURAGE CONSUMPTION.

5. IT IS HAPPENING AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL WHAT HAS OCCURRED WITHIN COUNTRIES WHERE THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WELL-BEING CONSTITUTE PRIVILEGES WHICH SEPARATE TO ONE SIDE THE MAJORITY AND DEEPEN THEIR POVERTY, HASTEN SOCIAL DISCONTENT AND LEAD TO REBELLION. THOSE COUNTRIES MOST INDUSTRIALIZED SHOULD LEARN FROM HUMAN HISTORY. NEVER, AT ANY TIME, HAS AN IMPERIAL ATTITUDE PREVENTED THE UNDERMINING OF THE POWER OF THOSE SAME UNCLASSIFIED

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MIGHTY COUNTRIES.

6. IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THERE MUST ALSO BE HUMAN RIGHTS FOR NATIONS. BECAUSE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR PROPERTY. THEY ARE NOT LIMITED, NOR CAN THEY BE LIMITED, TO BEING JUDGED WITHIN THE LAW, IN LIBERTY AND IN CONFORMITY WITH DEMOCRACY, NATIONS HAVE, THEN, THEIR OWN RIGHTS. THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE FREELY IN ALL MARKETS. THE RIGHT TO FREE COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTERCHANGE FREE OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY. THE RIGHT TO NOT BE FORCED OR PRESSURED OR EXPLOITED BY THOSE MORE POWERFUL. HUMAN RIGHTS OF NATIONS THEN (ARE THOSE) THAT ALLOW THEM TO SURVIVE AT LEAST WITH DIGNITY, AND THAT ALLOW THEM TO DEVELOP AND PROGRESS.

7. THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR LATIN AMERICA, ECLA, HAS STRIVEN FOR MANY YEARS NOT ONLY TO STIMULATE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT BUT TO CORRECT THE DISTRESSINGLY UNJUST ECONOMIC ORDER THAT EXISTS BETWEEN

THE LARGE AND THE SMALL NATIONS. THE LIMITED AND DIFFICULT PROGRESS THAT THE NATIONS OF THE REGION HAVE MADE IS THE RESULT NOT ONLY OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS, BUT ALSO OF THE ACTIVE AND IMMEDIATE INTEREST OF THE MOST ADVANCED NATIONS TO LIMIT OUR POSSIBILITIES AND TO FRUSTRATE OUR CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPMENT. ECLA, CONSEQUENTLY, IS CALLED UPON TO BE THE AGENT OF CHANGE IN THIS SCHEME IN THE RELATIONS AMONG OUR COUNTRIES.

8. AS THE DELEGATES TO THIS MEETING KNOW, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA IS BEING FORMULATED. UNQUESTIONABLY MANY MORE PROBLEMS WILL HAVE TO BE CONQUERED OTHER THAN THOSE WHICH HAVE BLOCKED THE COMMON MARKET. THIS IS, HOWEVER, A CONSEQUENCE OF THE SOCIAL ORDER AND OF THE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS OF EACH COUNTRY AT THIS TIME IN THE REGION. BUT THE COMMUNITY IS AN EXPRESSION OF AN INEVITABLE, NECESSARY AND UNCHANGEABLE
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PROCESS.

9. THE PRESENCE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WILL HELP THE ASSEMBLY AND HE WILL BE HELPED BY IT TO UNDERSTAND BETTER A CONTINENT HISTORICALLY DEPENDENT ON THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. BUT IT WOULD BE AN ERROR TO THINK THAT NOTHING HAS CHANGED AND THAT NOTHING WILL CHANGE. LATIN AMERICA DESIRES TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE COUNTRIES AND THE CONTINENT WISH IT. ASSOCIATED, BUT NOT SUBORDINATED. END TEZT

10. AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS ASKED AT PRESS CONFERENCE WHETHER HE AGREED WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD THAT NATIONS HAD "HUMAN RIGHTS" INCLUDING RIGHT TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FROM LARGER COUNTRIES. HE REPLIED THAT SMALLER COUNTRIES DO HAVE THE RIGHT NOT BE EXPLOITED AND THAT THE SYSTEM SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THESE SMALLER COUNTRIES AND THEIR PRODUCTS.
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